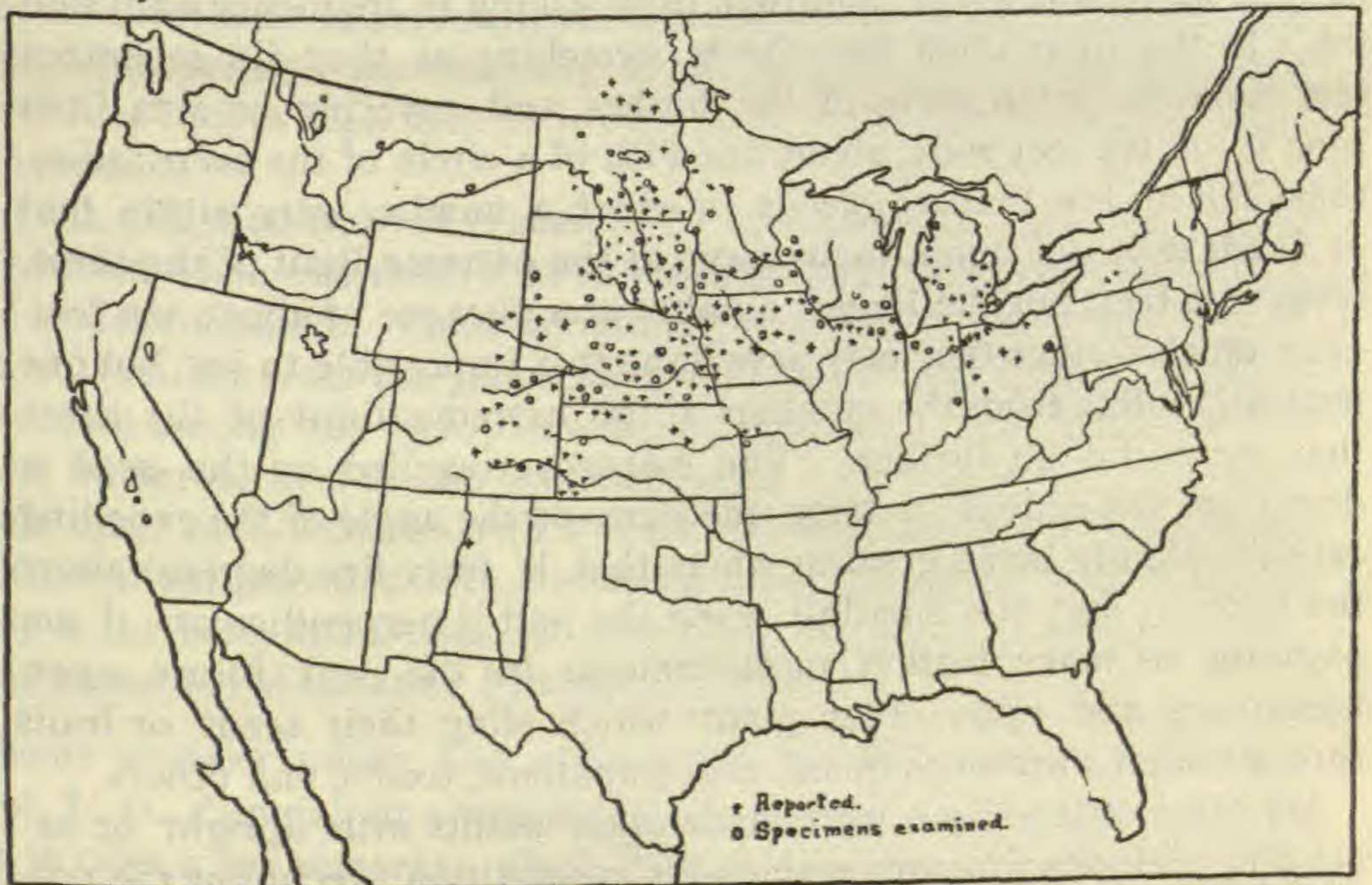


BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Distribution of the Russian thistle in North America.—During the past thirty years the Russian thistle, *Salsola kali tragus*, has been introduced over a wider range and has covered the infested territory more thoroughly than any other weed in America has ever done in the same length of time. Prickly lettuce, *Lactuca Scariola*, has a record for rapid distribution which approaches that of the Russian thistle but the prickly lettuce was introduced as early as 1863, while the Russian thistle was not here until ten years later. Even the Canada thistle which was abundant enough in Vermont a century ago to be proscribed by law as a noxious weed, has not in a hundred years covered much more ground than is now occupied by the Russian thistle. The data being collected regarding the rapid distribution of this weed will form an interesting chapter in the history of weeds in this country.



The accompanying map shows the distribution of the Russian thistle as indicated by the reports received at the Department of Agriculture during the past three years, corrected to October 30, 1895. If the plant has been discovered in any locality not indicated on the map, the undersigned would be glad to receive a report of it; and, if in any locality there indicated the plants have been exterminated, a report of the fact would be doubly acceptable.—LYSTER H. DEWEY, *Washington, D.C.*